

A Beginner's Guide to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta





Part One: The Groundwork



The Sacramento Delta is a unique inland inverse delta.

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Some of the major flooding events in the Central Valley, as compiled by Sacramento Bee journalist David Caraccio.

All in all, the addition of farms, expanding communities, shipping lanes, water projects, levees, and other features changed the landscape so much that the native species might as well be swimming on an alien planet! Only very small pockets of area support the remaining native species. It is impossible to return to the historic Delta system, and doing so would ignore the communities and other places that are now just as much a fabric of the Delta as anything. The Delta, however, will continue to evolve and change. It can be said that the only

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enjoying the natural beauty. When you live in the Delta and experience it every day, you tend to be connected with it, probably more than anyone. The culture here is unique. As unique as the place these people live.

Agenda Item 9, Attachment 1



Happily, there are government mandates that recognize the value of preserving the unique aspects of the Delta as a place-- a place where people live, work, and play. A place of cultural significance and heritage. California's Water Code and Public Resources Code both have examples where the Legislature declares the cities, towns, and places in the Delta of significant historical and cultural value on a statewide, national, and international scale. Check out more about these

A Story Map



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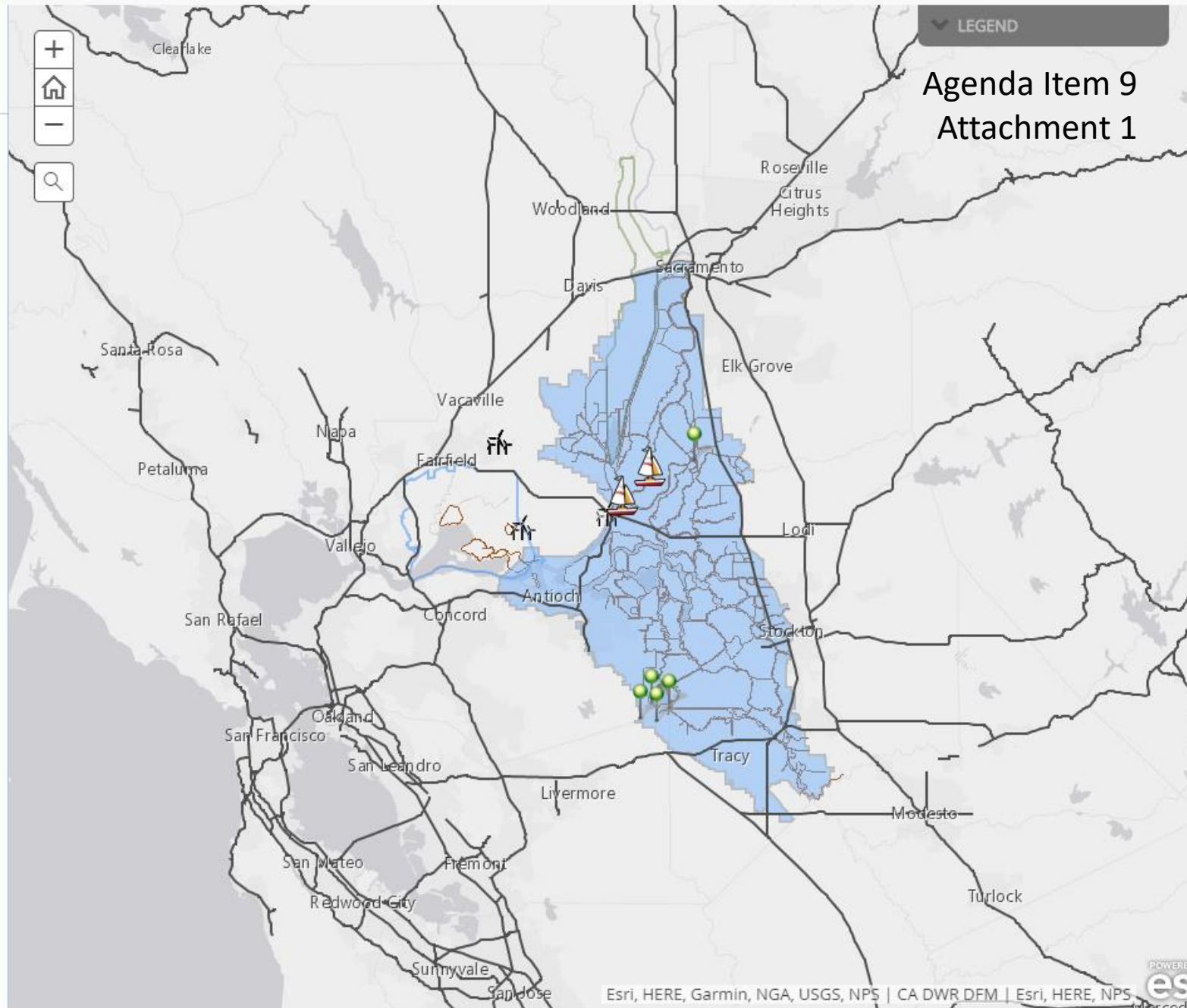


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A Tour of the Main Features of the Delta

No single feature defines the Delta. It is the sum of its many natural and human elements. Only by understanding all these individual parts can we begin to get a full picture of the Delta.

Rivers



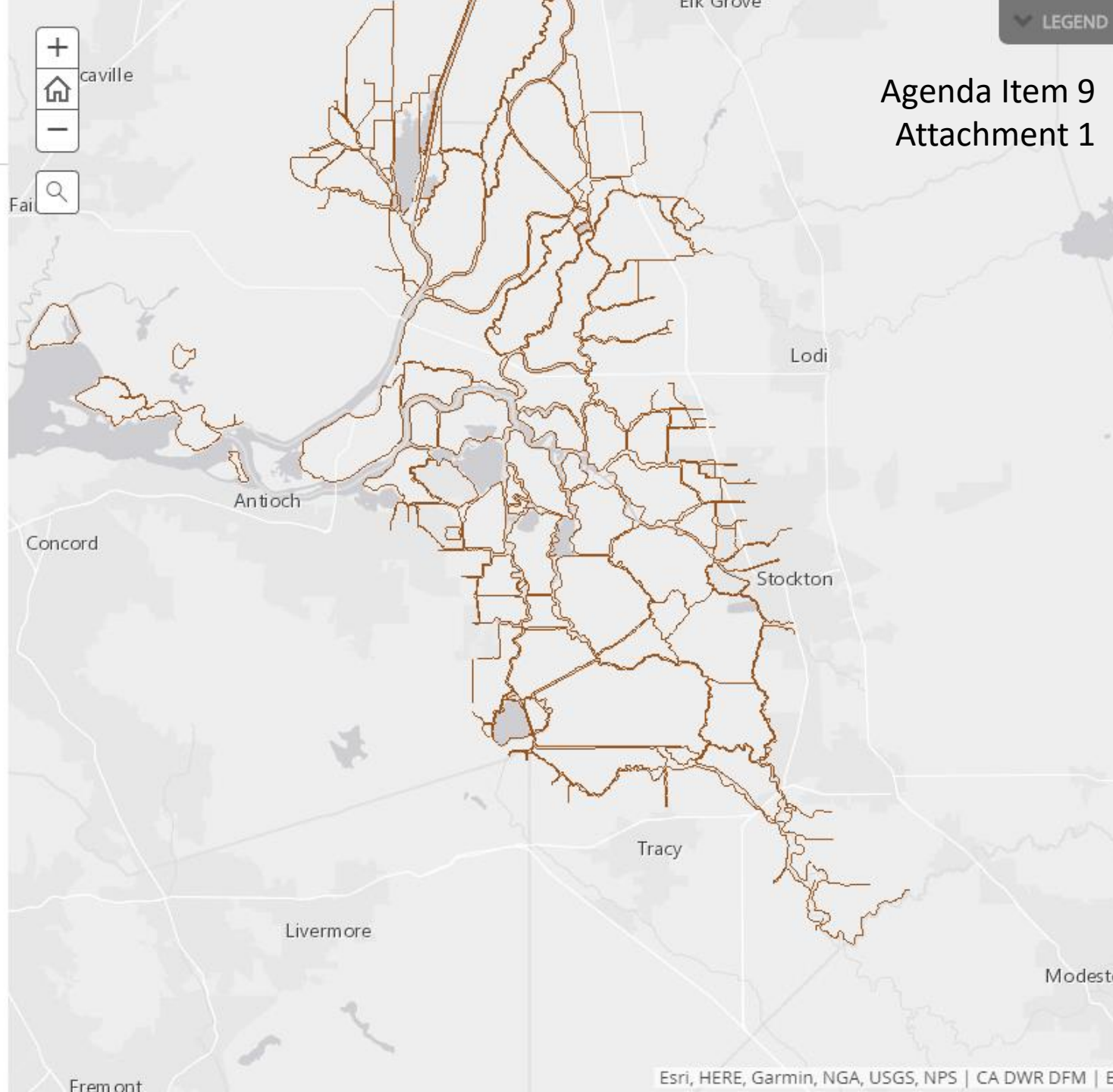
A Tour of the Main Features of the Delta

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Levees



This guide has mentioned levees a lot. But what on earth is a levee? Essentially, it is something built up for the purpose of keeping out water. Pre-development, the Delta had a system of natural levees, sand and mud that accumulated on the banks of a river's floodplain and anchored by plant roots. In the Delta, when people refer to levees, they are more likely referring to the system of man made levees. This system of levees. Without the 1,330 miles of levees, the Delta would not be easily habitable by people. There are two main types of levees.

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A Tour of the Main Features of the Delta

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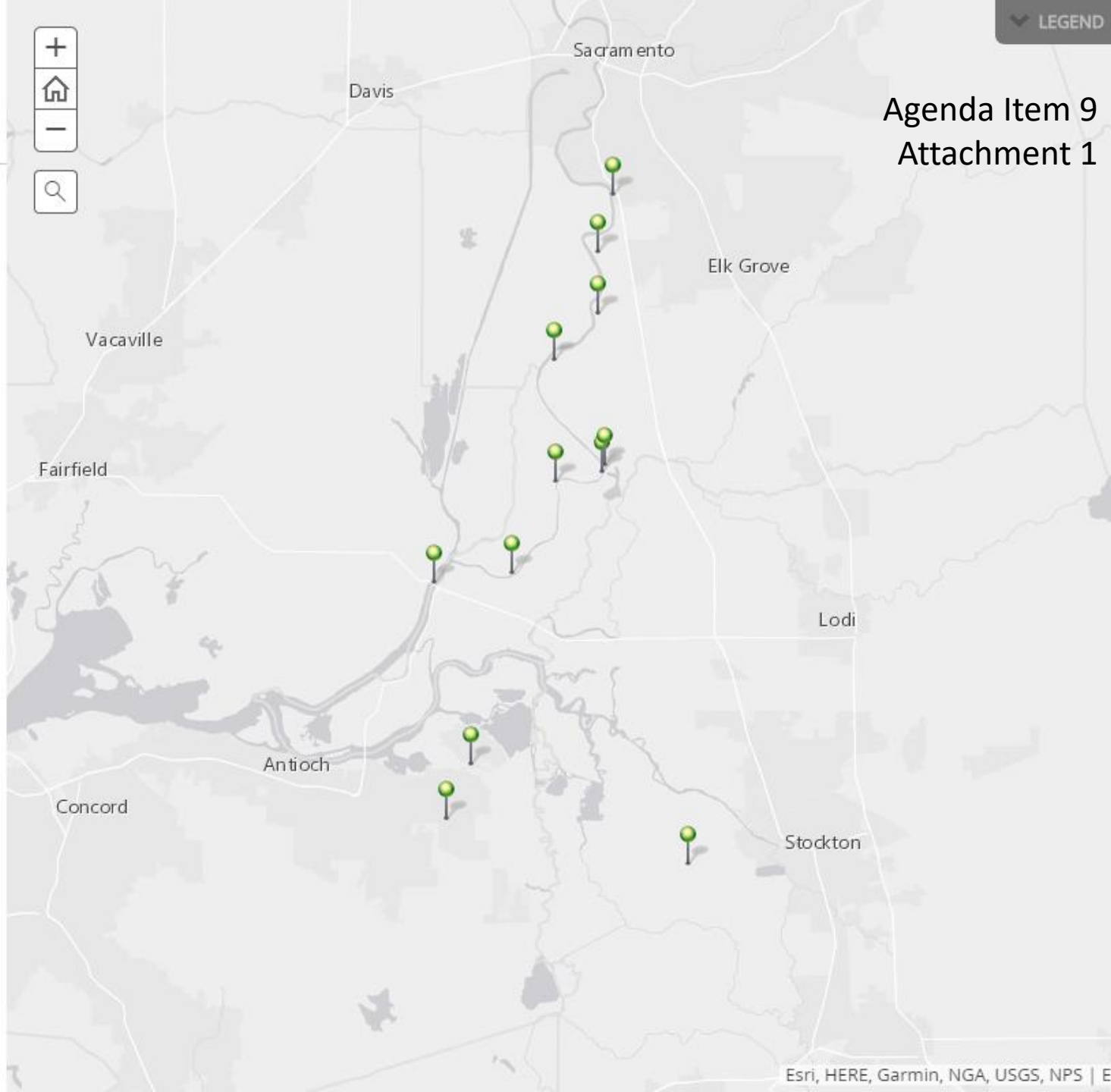
suburbs.

Legacy Communities



Historic buildings in legacy community Locke.

'Legacy community' is a term that you may often hear in conversations about the Delta. The legacy communities are a grouping of historic towns that have changed little in the last 100 years or so. The official list of legacy towns per legislature includes Bethel Island, Clarksburg, Courtland, Freeport, Hood, Isleton, Knightsen, Rio Vista,



Delta Smelt

Hypomesus transpacificus



Giant Garter Snake

Thamnophis gigas





Credit: California Department of Water Resources



Tina Swanson of the NRDC talking on the America Adapts Podcast (<http://americaadapts.org/california-adapts-2-the-journey/>).



Bay Delta Plan

The official title of this management plan is the San Francisco Bay/ Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary Water Quality Control Plan. Written and maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board, this plan discusses the beneficial uses of water and sets water quality objectives. Some of the beneficial uses include industry, power, recreation, navigation, and the support of wildlife. The objectives to protect these uses are technical numbers and figures that describe flow rates, dissolved oxygen content, salinity, mercury content, and other scientific measures at specific places along the Delta. The current plan was updated in 2006. The next update is scheduled for some time in 2018, but might take longer.

Delta Conservation Framework

This framework by California Department of Fish and Wildlife is designed to be a long-term (effective until 2050) call to action to develop solutions for environmental conservation in the Delta. It is one of the newest Delta planning documents. It is a continuation of California EcoRestore, an initiative to restore more than 30,000 acres of Delta habitat by 2020.

Delta Land Use and Resource Management Plan

Hashtags

If you are on social media, you can keep up with Delta updates by following along with #sacdelta, #cawater, and #visitcadelta hashtags.

Here are some examples:

